

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6 and 7 are amended to recite additional features disclosed in the specification. See the specification at, for example, Fig. 3A and paragraph [0038].

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over JPA10-190354 to Takahashi et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is amended to recite an inverter that includes two transistors connected in series, a source of one of the two transistors being grounded, as outlined above. Claims 6 and 7 are similarly amended. Takahashi does not disclose or suggest this feature.

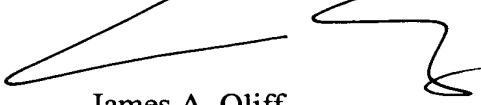
Takahashi discloses an oscillator (Xtal), an inverter (INV<sub>1</sub>) and a transistor 9 having one electrode grounded. See Fig. 1. The Office Action asserts that Takahashi also discloses a transmission gate (2, 3). However, Takahashi does not disclose or suggest that the inverter includes two transistors connected in series, a source of one of the two transistors being grounded, as recited in claim 1, and similarly recited in claims 6 and 7. Thus, Takahashi does not disclose each and every element recited in claims 1, 6 and 7, and claims 2-5 depending therefrom.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-7 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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